

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05558 191509Z

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SUBJECT: NATO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 220233; (B) USNATO 5333

SUMMARY: FRENCH REJECTED US-UK COMPROMISE ON NATO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, BUT OFFERED COUNTER-PROPOSAL UNDER WHICH NATO WOULD SELECT RESEARCH TOPICS, PARTICIPATION WOULD BE BROADENED AND PUBLICATION OF BEST STUDIES WOULD BE EXPANDED. MISSION PROPOSES ACCEPTANCE FOR CURRENT YEAR WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT STUDY WOULD CONTINUE OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS TO WORK OUT BEST PROGRAM FOR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. FRENCH HAVE REJECTED US-UK COMPROMISE PROPOSAL (REF B) ON NATO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, BUT HAVE PROPOSED NEW COMPROMISE CONTAINING FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A. NATO WOULD MAINTAIN SAME BUDGET FOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, BUT RESEARCH TOPICS WOULD BE SELECTED IN ADVANCE BY NATO, FOLLOWING WHICH CANDIDATES COULD APPLY FOR FELLOWSHIPS TO WRITE ON TOPICS SELECTED FROM NATO LIST. THIS WOULD ASSURE THAT TOPICS HAVE DIRECT INTEREST FOR ALLIANCE.

B. FELLOWSHIPS WOULD BE AVAILABLE NOT ONLY TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BUT ALSO TO LABOR LEADERS AND OTHER CANDIDATES WITHOUT SPECIAL

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PAGE 02 NATO 05558 191509Z

SCHOLARLY QUALIFICATIONS, BUT WHO HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE ALLIANCE. WELL-ESTABLISHED PROFESSORS AND JOURNALISTS WOULD, HOWEVER, BE EXCLUDED.

C. FEWER FELLOWSHIPS WOULD BE GIVEN THAN IN THE PAST IN ORDER

TO HAVE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MORE REGULAR AND MORE WIDESPREAD PUBLICATION OF BEST RESEARCH STUDIES RESULTING FROM PROGRAM.

2. MISSION THINKS THIS PROPOSAL TAKES SIGNIFICANT STEP IN REDUCING CHARACTER OF ACADEMIC PATRONAGE IN PAST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND IN AIMING PROGRAM MORE DIRECTLY AT NATO OBJECTIVES. PROPOSAL GOES MUCH FURTHER THAN FRENCH WERE PREPARED TO GO TWO MONTHS AGO.

3. MISSION TOLD FRENCH THAT THOUGH THIS PROPOSAL DID NOT MEET U.S. DESIRE FOR EXPANDED PROGRAM OF VISITS AND PANELS, IT DID AT LEAST SEEM WAY TO GET OUT OF CURRENT IMPASSE. WE INDICATED WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO AGREE TO FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR CURRENT YEAR, BUT WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT FOR FUTURE AND ON UNDERSTANDING THAT PROGRAM WOULD BE STUDIED SERIOUSLY OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS WITH VIEW TO THEN DEVISING MOST WORTHWHILE PROGRAM FOR FUTURE. MISSION WILL ALSO TRY TO ARRIVE AT UNDERSTANDING WITH FRENCH THAT NEW PROGRAM ALSO WOULD INCLUDE YOUNG, POST-DOCTORAL SCHOLARS AND YOUNG JOURNALISTS.

4. IF AGREEABLE TO DEPARTMENT, MISSION PROPOSES TO CONVEY TO FRENCH THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED TO ACCEPT FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR CURRENT YEAR, ON BASIS OUTLINED PARA THREE. THEN MISSION AND FRENCH WILL LOBBY WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE IN COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS.

5. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS BY NOVEMBER 21 WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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